

Rosalind Russell as a spy

Mrs. Pollifax is being advertised as "the spy who came out of the kitchen." Women's lib may or may not approve of that description, but it's accurate enough: Although the heroine of "Mrs. Pollifax—Spy" comes of good family and is a bit more resourceful than most of us, she's really a most ordinary lady who never expected to be kidnapped by Communists and forced to escape from an Albanian prison, even managing to bring the microfilm with her.

One of the secrets of success behind this most-of-the-family movie is Rosalind Russell's breezy portrayal of the amazing Mrs. P., the middle-aged mother and housewife who volunteers her services to the CIA be-

cause she needs "something to fill her nights." Her cold-chappee is played with almost equal charm by Darren McGavin. And even when the plot leads the pair to a scene involving a bit more violence than might have been necessary, their unfailing good humor and ability to wisecrack convincingly, even in the aftermath of an off-screen torture session, go a long way toward compensating for director Leslie Martinson's slight excesses in the cause of realism.

The proceedings are colorfully filmed by Joe Biroc, with extra Albanian-style charm added by Lalo Schiffrin's commercial but folksy score. All in all, a slightly overlong but generally agreeable entertainment. D. S.